

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME**

Emergency Order No. 1-SS-H-24-04

Issued at Yakutat, Friday, September 10, 2004

Effective 12:01 A.M.
Date: Saturday, September 11, 2004

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Friday,
December 31, 2004. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the sport fishing bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length in the Situk River from 2 to 4 fish.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska (b)(6)(E) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

(6) in the Situk River Drainage,

(E) the bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is 4 fish.

Kevin C. Duffy
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert Johnson
Yakutat Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal of 6,550 coho salmon, with an escapement range of 3,300 to 9,800 spawners as observed during float surveys. Nearly 10,400 coho were counted during a float survey on September 8 under less than optimal viewing conditions. All indications are that the Situk River is experiencing a very strong coho return this season and the total coho escapement is projected to exceed the upper end of the escapement range. The Situk River sport coho harvest will not reduce the escapement below the escapement range with the increased bag and possession limit.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.